"(c) These depots were closed down on 14th April 1949 for the following reasons :—

(1) Consequent on its merger with the Indian Union, Pudukkottai became a Revenue Division of Tiruchirappalli district from 1st April 1949. It was considered that it was not desirable to continue in a small part of the district alone a special concession which was not enjoyed by the people of the adjoining territories, especially when the firewood depots catered only to the needs of the Government officials in Pudukkottai town and the upper and middle classes of the urban population, who derived full advantage out of these depots.

(2) Moreover, the maintenance of the fuel depots was an extra responsibility on the part of the Government.

(3) Further, it was reported that the price of fuel in the open market was actually less than that fixed in the fuel depots run by the Government and that the mass of the people would not be affected by the closure of the depots.

"(d) & (e) No. The Pudukkottai Municipal Council did not make any offer to take over the two firewood depots. But, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Pudukkottai, made a request to the Collector of Tiruchirappalli to continue the Government fuel depots and a similar request was also made by one Sri T. R. Vaidyanatha Iyer, an ex-M.L.C. The Collector however, did not consider it necessary to concede the request in view of the reasons stated in the answer to clause (c) above."

Power supply for Hindupur.

11-30 a.m. * 147 *Q.*—SRI G. SIVASANKARA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether proposals for the extension of power supply to villages around Hindupur, from Hindupur supply station have been received from the Superintending Engineer, Rayalaseema Power System, Bellary ; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the schemes as proposed for construction this year?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—"(a) Yes.

"(b) They will be executed as and when funds become available."

MR. SPEAKER :—"As we began our sitting only at 10-35 of the clock in the Assembly Chamber I shall extend the question-hour by five minutes, that is, till 11-35."

Minimum wages for agricultural labourers.

* 148 [a] *Q.*—SRI P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO :—"ఈ ప్రశ్న చాలా ముఖ్యమైనది కనుక రేపటికి మార్చవలసినదని కోరుతున్నాను."

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[a] Starred question No. 148 postponed for answer on 26th November 1952.

25th November 1952]

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The hon. Member requests that the question may be taken up to-morrow, as it relates to a very important subject, namely, minimum wages for agricultural labourers."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection."

Supply of electricity to Ottappalam, Malabar.

* 149 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for the extension of electricity to Ottappalam, Malabar, and the stage where it stands now?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The proposal is under the consideration of the Government."

Fair rent for pepper gardens.

* 150 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have received any memorandum regarding some grievances of the pepper growers of the West Coast in July 1952, and if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" On 2nd August 1952, the Government received a memorandum on behalf of the pepper growers of Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara district, requesting that the fair rent for pepper gardens should be payable only once every ten years or, in the alternative, once every six years. The question of amending the Malabar Tenancy Act is engaging the attention of the Government and the question of reduction of the fair rent payable will receive consideration."

Supply of electricity to Bapatla Municipality.

* 151 Q.—SRI V. SRI KRISHNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state when the Government propose to supply electricity to Bapatla Municipality?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" A proposal for extension of supply of electricity to Bapatla is under the consideration of the Government. The scheme if sanctioned, will be taken up in order, with reference to the funds available."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" బాపట్లకు విద్యుచ్ఛక్తి సరఫరా విషయంలో, తీగలు వేసినప్పటికి, విద్యుచ్ఛక్తిని Agricultural College గోడల మధ్యనే పెట్టుకు కూర్చున్నారు. పట్టణానికి విద్యుచ్ఛక్తిని ఎప్పుడు ఇస్తారో తెలియజేస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have said already that the proposal is under consideration."